4th July 1952]

sufferers, they do not interfere with the lands kept for communal purposes, like guntas, tanks, etc., to avoid frictions in the villages?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"Any acquaintance with the rules on the subject would show that nobody can make or allow such assignments to be made of lands which are used for communal purposes. Such lands cannot be assigned at all. In cases where there is any doubt there is an inquiry held. The Collector assigns only such lands as are not required for communal purposes."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY:—"I believe the Hon. Minister did not follow my previous question. Why does he disapprove of the principle of assigning lands to political sufferers and why does the present Ministry not approve the policy of the past Ministry, as distinct from the question whether it is right or wrong to dispossess a person to whom land is assigned and he has spent money on it in improving it?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"I thought I made it quite clear. A man or a Government disapprove of a thing because in his opinion or in their opinion the thing is wrong. I have already said, I consider it wrong for one who claims to be a patriot, after doing a patriotic service, to ask for a return for such service, especially in the form of grant of land which is in the occupation of another person, who for the sake of maintaining himself has squatted on that land. The circumstances show the stress of poverty of the individual. But while anything wrong or unlicenced should be set right, such poor men should not be deprived of their means of subsistence. I do not disapprove of the policy of grants to men who have done national service but I disapprove of the consequences of that policy. I do not quite understand what the object of the question is. I have answered it as far as I could understand it."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"Does the disapproval go to the extent of getting back the land? Is it disapproval in words or in action also?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI:—"The disapproval is in words, and as far as law permits in action as well, and as far as I can get influence to bear upon people without the help of law, I shall also try to do it. But I cannot go beyond a certain point. If the hon. Member who puts the question suggests these things for his own purposes and if I followed the hon. Member's opinion even my conduct would be misunderstood." (Laughter.)

Minimum wages for agricultural labour.

* 13 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any steps to fix minimum wages for agricultural labour; and

[4th July 1952

(*b*) if so, when the proposals will be finalized and orders issued?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) A special enquiry is being conducted in low wage areas of the State. Orders will be issued after examination of the results of the enquiry."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR:—" May I enquire whether it is proposed to fix the minimum wages for agricultural labour in cash or in kind?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" It has not been decided yet, Sir. As soon as the report is received, Government will consider in what manner it should be fixed. At the present moment, it is paid in different forms, sometimes in cash and sometimes in kind."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, whether the recommendation to be made, is, as to what should be the minimum wages?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" Yes, Sir; the minimum wages for agricultural labour. We are now conducting an inquiry in the low wage areas in the State and we hope to finish the inquiry before 31st December 1953."

SRI V. CHAKKARAI CHETTY:—" May I know whether any committee has been appointed to go into the question. Because I know as a matter of fact, in all matters of fixing minimum wages, a committee is being appointed first to go into the question; then, when it submits its report, the Government examine it, and then the Labour Commissioner finalizes the recommendations. Have all these steps been taken before fixing the minimum wages?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" I have already said that at the present moment we are making an investigation to find out if there is sub-standard wage paid to agricultural labour, and if so, in which areas. As soon as that report is received, it will be the time then, to decide whether a committee should be appointed and if so, who should be the personnel of that committee."

SRI C. RAJESWARA RAO:—" Sir, in the light of the urgent necessity to pay adequate wages to agricultural labour, will the Hon. Minister see that the report of the inquiry is brought out within the course of the next six months. Of course, he says, it will be received by the end of December 1953. But as the matter is urgent, will he see that it is brought out within the next six months?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" Sir, I may tell the hon. Member that it has taken us three months to investigate 84 villages. In the eleven districts we have take up for this inquiry, we intend to make a survey in 425 villages; and it seems rather too big a promise to make to finish this within six months."

4th July 1952]

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"Sir, in view of the troubled conditions prevailing in Tanjore district, as the standard of wages for agricultural labour there is about the lowest, will the Hon. Minister take up the inquiry there first and finish it as quickly as possible?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"In the eleven districts taken up by Government, Tanjore does not find a place. The eleven districts we have chosen are areas where absolutely low wages for agricultural labour prevail. That shows that Tanjore district is certainly better off than Bellary, Visakhapatnam, North Arcot, etc., which are all low wage areas."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"What does the Hon. Minister mean by '*no*' wages? Am I to understand that people there are working for no wages?"

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:—"'Low' wages."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"I said 'low' wages."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"May I know what those eleven districts are?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"They are Bellary, Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam, North Arcot, South Kanara, Chittoor, South Arcot, Nellore, Chingleput, Salem and Kurnool."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN:—"Does the Hon. Minister mean that in these districts the agricultural wages paid are lower than those paid in Tanjore district?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—"My information is that the distress is more acute in those areas than in Tanjore district. In view of the suggestion of the hon. Member that in Tanjore district it is worse, I shall consider his suggestion."

Provincialization of the posts of Municipal Commissioners.

* 14 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAMA MUDALIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the municipal councils have agreed to the provincialization of the posts of Municipal Commissioners;

(*b*) if so, whether the posts of Municipal Commissioners have accordingly been provincialized;

(*c*) the comparative scales of pay for Municipal Commissioners, Municipal Health Officers and Municipal Engineers of the several grades;

(*d*) the stage, at which the constitution of a combined service for all employees of local boards and municipal councils stands; and